

TYPES OF ADMISSIONS DECISIONS

Accepted

Clearly, this is the answer that everyone desires. This notification calls for celebration, but keep in mind that your peers may not have received the same good news. Remember to tell the College Guidance office of your acceptance right away. The guidance office is not privy to the application decisions. If your acceptance was not a binding one, you may want to re-visit any schools to which you've been offered admission before making your final choice. In April, many schools will host open house events for admitted students. These are great opportunities to gather information to help you make a final decision.

January/Spring Semester Admission

There are some colleges that will offer some applicants admission to the class beginning in the second semester, or January. While you may not be as excited with this type of admittance compared to Fall admittance, keep in mind that this is good news – you have been admitted. There are many exciting and productive things that you could do in the interim. Depending on the college, students admitted for spring semester are given options as to how to spend the fall semester before joining campus - study abroad through a university sanctioned program, work, pursue a personal or academic interest, or simply take time off to rejuvenate.

Deferred

If you have applied to a school using an Early Decision or Early Action option, you may receive an initial decision of deferment. This means that the college has neither accepted nor denied your application, but would like to take some more time, perhaps gather more information, and revisit your application with the Regular Decision applicant pool. If you get this news, hang in there, keep your grades up, continue with your other applications, and speak with your counselor about other possible strategies.

Waitlist

If you receive a waitlist notification, you will be given the option to either remain on the waitlist, or decline and remove your application. If you receive this decision and wish to remain on the waitlist, respond immediately and meet with your counselor about how to proceed. Typically, after National Decision Day on May 1, when colleges know how many accepted applicants have chosen to attend their college, admissions offices will begin to complete their incoming class with waitlisted students who have expressed continued interest in enrolling.

Conditional Acceptance

Sometimes, a college admissions committee may have a positive view of an applicant but after reviewing her high school record and test scores, may not be quite convinced that she would be successful at the college or in the particular course of study in which she's expressed interest. In these instances, the applicant may be offered a Conditional Acceptance. As implied, there would be requirements or conditions tied to the acceptance that must be met before the student would be offered full acceptance.

The applicant may need to provide final senior year grades or take a summer course in a specific subject area and achieve a certain required grade. Or, this type of acceptance may limit the student to enrolling full or part-time and passing the first semester with a required GPA. Generally, once the condition is met, the student is given full acceptance.

Denied

Unfortunately, not every student can be accepted to every school. It isn't easy to receive a denial, but it is part of the college application process. Try not to take it personally, and focus on the schools that have offered you admission. All students with balanced application lists will receive a combination of acceptances and denials; colleges simply can't admit every qualified applicant to their school.

Gap Year

Some students may opt to take a year off after high school. They might travel, work, volunteer, or participate in an organized program. If you choose to go this route, it can present an amazing opportunity to recharge your batteries, gain perspective, and give more focus to your future path. If you decide to do this, you still need to respond to any offers of admission. Before May 1, be sure to determine the proper procedure for requesting "deferred admission" to the college you have chosen to attend following your gap year.

Guaranteed Transfer

As colleges are receiving increasing numbers of applications each year, a small but growing number are offering an option of guaranteed admission. This type of admittance allows for a guaranteed admission the following year if the student attends another institution for their freshmen year and earns a prescribed grade-point average.